



# MONROE

## THIS WEEK

July 15, 2016 Edition No. 28

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### Mayor

Geoffrey Thomas  
[gthomas@monroewa.gov](mailto:gthomas@monroewa.gov)

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### Councilmembers

Patsy Cudaback  
Kevin Hanford  
Ed Davis  
Jason Gamble  
Jim Kamp  
Jeff Rasmussen  
Kirk Scarborough  
[councilmembers@monroewa.gov](mailto:councilmembers@monroewa.gov)

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### City Hall

806 West Main Street  
Monroe, WA 98272  
Phone: 360.794.7400  
Open 8AM – 5PM, M-F

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### Appointment Openings

No Vacancies

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### Job Openings

Senior Engineer – Development  
Review  
[www.monroewa.gov/jobs](http://www.monroewa.gov/jobs)

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### Events this Week

- 07/15 Music in the Park,  
Longstride Band,  
Lake Tye Park, 7-9PM
- 07/16 Coffee with the Mayor,  
Dashing Dutchman Deli,  
8-9:30AM
- 07/17 Shakespeare's "Love  
Labor's Lost", Wagner  
Performing Arts Center,  
5-7PM
- 07/19 City Council  
Planning/Transportation,  
Public Works, Parks &  
Recreation, and Public  
Safety Committee  
Meeting, Permit Center,  
City Hall, 6PM  
  
City Council Meeting,  
City Hall, Council  
Chambers, 7PM
- 07/20 Farm To Table Farmer's  
Market, Lake Tye Park,  
3-8PM
- 07/22 Music in the Park,  
Knut Bell Band,  
Lake Tye Park, 7-9PM

From the Office of Mayor Thomas

To highlight some of the things going on in our community, I am writing this weekly city update, "Monroe This Week. If you have any suggestions or questions regarding "Monroe This Week" or the stories below, please contact me at [GThomas@MonroeWa.gov](mailto:GThomas@MonroeWa.gov).

Yours in Service,

Mayor Geoffrey Thomas

## Be In The Know!

### Changes Coming To Blueberry Lane and Kelsey Street

For many years, residents have expressed their concerns about the intersection of Blueberry Lane and Kelsey Street. In particular, people have talked about the difficulty of turning left from Blueberry Lane onto Kelsey Street and backups going north on Kelsey Street, especially during weekday afternoons or when trains cross north of Blueberry Lane and stop traffic on Kelsey Street. In some cases, when traffic is backed up on Kelsey Street, drivers have taken to driving northbound in the southbound lane of Kelsey Street to turn left on Blueberry Lane or even to turn left on US2. In other cases, when traffic is backed up on Kelsey Street, drivers turning left from Blueberry Lane to Kelsey Street have pulled out onto Kelsey Street and had to stop with their vehicle still in the southbound lanes.

The City Council, staff, and myself (Mayor Thomas) have been continuing to work on solutions to resolve the traffic flow and enhance public safety at this intersection. Over the last several years, various alternatives have been considered from simply installing signs to prohibit left turns during weekday afternoons, to installing a special curb (sometimes called a "C curb" – similar to what you see on North Kelsey Street next to Fred Meyer) down the middle of portions of Kelsey Street to make it more difficult for people to drive northbound in the southbound lane of North Kelsey, to installing a light at the intersection, to building a new road connection. The cost of these alternatives can range from a few thousand dollars to several million.

**City of Monroe  
Year-to-Date Comparisons**

*The following are year-to-date comparisons*

**Sales Tax Revenues**

'15 to 6/30/15: \$1,913,161

'16 to 6/30/16: \$2,128,692

**UP \$215,530 or 11.27%**

**Real Estate Excise Tax**

'15 to 6/30/15: \$265,398

'16 to 6/30/16: \$439,327

**UP \$173,929 or 65.54%**

**Lodging Tax Revenues**

'15 to 6/30/15: \$23,482

'16 to 6/30/16: \$30,044

**UP \$6,562 or 27.95%**

**Business License Fees**

'15 to 6/30/15: \$26,265

'16 to 6/30/16: \$23,984

**DOWN \$2,281 or -8.68%**

**Building Permit Revenues**

'15 to 6/30/15: \$180,616

'16 to 6/30/16: \$366,658

**UP \$186,042 or 103%**

**Planning Fee Revenues**

'15 to 6/30/15: \$52,340

'16 to 6/30/16: \$49,390

**DOWN \$2,950 or -5.64%**

**New House Permits**

'15 to 6/30/15: 37

'16 to 6/30/16: 59

**UP 22 units or 59.5%**

*\*19 permits issued in May 2016 alone*

**Multi-Family Permits (# units)**

'15 to 6/30/15: 13

'16 to 6/30/16: 4

**DOWN 9 units or -69.2%**

**Building Division Inspections**

'15 to 6/30/15: 874

'16 to 6/30/16: 979

**UP 102 or 12.0%**

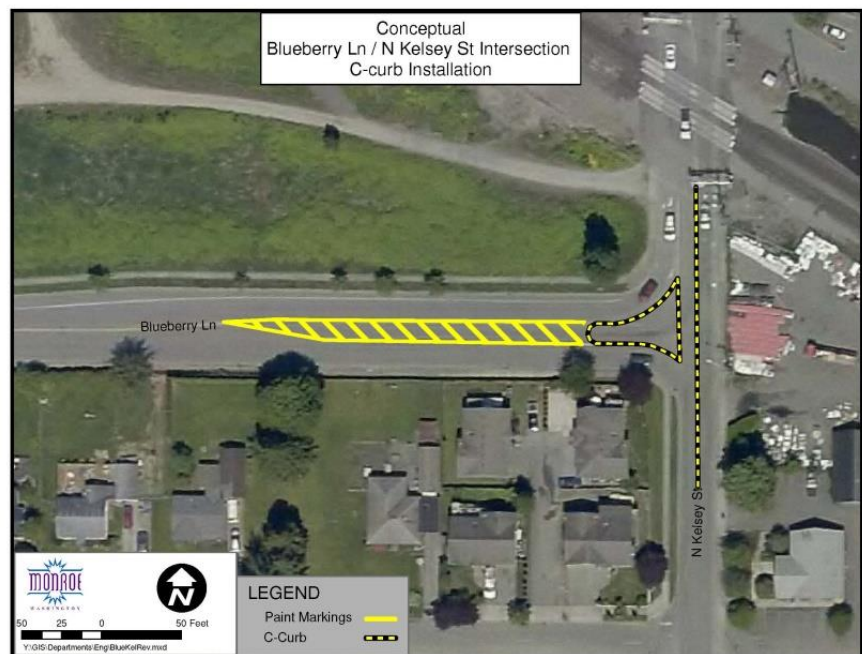
**(Changes continued)**

In June, City staff presented an alternative which would involve installing a "C curb" in the middle of Kelsey Street from just south of the railroad tracks to just north of North Street. The end result of these changes would be:

1. To prohibit left turns from Blueberry Lane to Kelsey Street,
2. To prohibit left turns from Kelsey Street to Blueberry Lane, and
3. To create a physical barrier to block drivers from driving in the wrong lane on Kelsey Street to bypass a backup in the northbound lane.

At the City Council meeting on July 12, 2016, Council received a presentation from staff on this alternative. After some discussion, Council voted 6-0 to direct City staff to make these changes to Blueberry Lane and Kelsey Street (*see sketch below*). The total cost of these changes will be approximately \$10,000 and the work would be completed sometime this fall. The result of these changes will be to prohibit left turns from Blueberry Lane to Kelsey Street and from Kelsey Street to Blueberry Lane at all times.

Those with questions or comments in support or opposition to Council's direction are encouraged to contact the City Council at [councilmembers@monroewa.gov](mailto:councilmembers@monroewa.gov).



### **Coffee with Mayor Thomas**

Please join me for coffee! Beginning Saturday, July 14, 2016, I will be available for people to drop in and meet with me at different businesses around Monroe a couple times a month on a Saturday morning. I will post these dates, times, and locations about two or three meetings in advance (covering about 4 to 6 weeks). My first meeting will be Saturday, July 14, 2016, at the Dashing Dutchman Deli from 8:00 to 9:30 a.m. The next meeting will be Saturday, July 30, 2016. Stay tuned for details on the location!

### **Fire District No. 3 Merger Meetings**

Snohomish County Fire District No. 3 will be having the following public meetings to discuss the merger into Snohomish County Fire District No. 7 that will be on the August 2nd ballot.

- July 18, 2016, 8:00 a.m. – Fire District No. 3, Station 31 (163 Village Court Monroe, WA 98272)
- July 19, 2016, 12:00 p.m. - Fire District No. 3, Station 31 (163 Village Court Monroe, WA 98272)

Please feel free to attend any or all of these meetings. For more information, please visit: [www.monroefire.org](http://www.monroefire.org)

### **Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour**

Despite intermittent showers throughout the day, approximately 1,500 spectators enjoyed an action-packed day of watching the world's best wakeboarders and wake-surf riders compete at Lake Tye Park. Saturday, July 9, 2016, was the third stop of the 2016 Supra Boats Pro Wakeboard Tour, the largest and longest-running circuit in the industry.

### **Music In The Park Begins July 15, 2016**

Seattle, Washington based group, Longstride is the best new band set to explode onto the music scene. Longstride equals Reggae-Rock-Groove with real melodies and amazing execution with a 'High energy, crowd moving' stage show. They will be here, Friday, July 15, 2016, at Lake Tye Park. This event is FREE! Thank you to the Monroe Chamber of Commerce and Monroe Parks and Recreation for organizing this great event. Thank you to all the sponsors for the series!

- Windermere
- Community Transit
- Ben Franklin
- Evergreen Speedway
- Mr. Dizzy
- Classic Country 1520 KXA
- Adam's Northwest Bistro and Brewery
- The Dashing Dutchman Deli
- Genesis Refrigeration, Heating and Cooling
- Bill Warburton Insurance Agency

For more information for Music in the Park, [click here!](#)

## **Legends Baseball**

The last of four large youth baseball tournaments will be held in our parks this weekend! The Monroe Legends Baseball Club is hosting their fourth Mid-Summer Madness Tournament of this season, with over 18 teams participating from the western Washington region. Come on out and watch some exciting youth baseball!

## ***Council Updates!***

### **Representative D. Kristiansen**

Over the last three summers, I have invited elected officials who represent Monroe at different levels of government to give updates to the City Council and myself. At Council's July 12, 2016, meeting, Representative Dan Kristiansen presented the various issues he has worked on, on behalf of our community in the last legislative session. His presentation included moving things forward with SR-522, alternatives for connecting 191st, the City's funding request for installing synthetic turf fields at Lake Tye Park, and concerns about how budget issues at the State level could impact revenues from the State to the City of Monroe. I appreciated hearing from him in regards to these matters. To hear his presentation, check out the audio recording of our July 12, 2016, Council meeting [here](#).

### **Council Meetings**

Monroe's City Council meets the first through fourth Tuesdays of each month, 7 p.m. at City Hall; and meeting agendas, supporting materials, minutes, and audio recordings are available online. Meeting agendas and supporting materials are typically posted online on Fridays, and approved minutes and audio recordings are usually posted on Wednesdays. Click [here](#) to be redirected to Council agendas and recordings.

### **Admissions Tax**

In 1996, the City of Monroe's City Council adopted an admissions tax. This tax is similar to a sales tax in that it is added onto the cost of admissions to businesses that charge an admissions fee in Monroe. The tax is 5%, and over the last 20 years the movie theater has been the primary business where the fee applies.

Admissions tax law has only been changed once in 20 years; that change was in December of 2013, when Council expanded the admissions tax to apply to arcades.

***(Admissions Tax Continued)***

At City Council meetings in June, Council received public testimony requesting the admissions tax law be revised to exempt certain uses. At its July 12, 2016, meeting, Council voted 3-3 to direct City staff to bring forward an amendment to the admissions tax code that would clarify the definition section by removing the text "*and any similar uses*" from the list of uses that must collect the admissions tax.

In Monroe, the Mayor does not vote and can only break a tie or veto a decision in certain circumstances. In this situation, I was able to break the tie vote and direct staff to clarify the code by removing this language and making other changes to meet the intent of Council's direction on July 12th.

In August, staff will return with a proposed ordinance that will clarify which uses the admissions tax will apply to. There will be an opportunity for the public to comment on these revisions and for Council to revise the proposal that staff brings forward in August.

If you have questions, please contact me at: [gthomas@monroewa.gov](mailto:gthomas@monroewa.gov). In the meantime, please stay tuned.